

# Supporting & Engaging Homeless Students on Campus

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Question:

What do you do if you find out a student on your campus is homeless?

# Great News for Homeless & Foster Youth

December 27th, 2020 The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 was signed into Law.



\*\*Changes will be effective as of July 1, 2023 and apply to the 2023-2024 award year & subsequent years.

# New FAFSA Policies of Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

- Presumption of subsequent Year Eligibility
- Expanded list of officials & programs who may verify an applicant as hmls
- Financial Aid Admin's *must* consider & accept documentation from entity who are authorized to verify youths status
- Financial Aid Admin's *must* make a determination of hmls status who cannot get determinations for other authorities

# More Legislation/ State Level

You can support by being aware of legislation for homeless youth

## CALL FOR ACTION

### State Level- Indiana

HB1152- Establish Student hunger & homelessness study committee- Did not pass

SB464- Allow unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness age 16 & older to apply for drivers license, ID, Birth certificate *without* parental consent & fee- Passed by House & Senate- signed by Governor

# Legislation / Federal Level- current

HEASHFY Act Of 2019 S.789/H.R.1724 (designate a higher ed liaison)

Education for Homeless Children & Youth (EHCY) and the Runaway & Homeless Youth Act (RHYA)

Housing for Homeless Students Act S.767

Emergency Family Stabilization Act (EFSA) reintroduced to Senate- call last week with Sen. Young staffer

Priorities for Biden-Harris Administration (1st 100 days & 1st year)

*To learn more & TAKE ACTION- go to <https://schoolhouseconnection.org/policy-advocacy/policy-updates/>*

Dear legislator letters, info about each policy

# Support

## High School Level

- Let youth know about FAFSA (important deadlines)
- Write MV Grant or other grants to pay for extra supplies- participation in sports/activities, transportation, emergency food, school supplies
- Make sure the student gets Free Lunch/Free Textbooks
- Make sure homeless Middle School Students sign up for 21st Century Scholars Program
- Identify free support programs (scholarships, test waivers, tutors, pantries)
- Train staff/Administrators about homeless definition
- Identify!! Connect!! Guide!!

# Support

## High School & Colleges

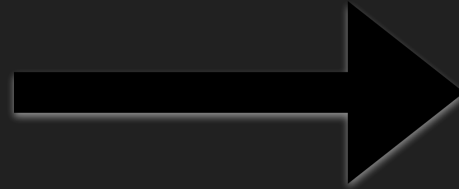
- Partner with other agencies to help identify students who are homeless or at risk of homelessness (Indy- Outreach Inc., area shelters, food pantries)
- List of resources for ALL students (posters around campus)
- Low cost mental health counseling or services on campus/ Medical care
- Opportunities for work on campus
- On/Off campus housing alternatives
- Vouchers for meal plan
- Food, clothing, supply pantry
- Textbook resources
- Improve policy & practice on campus to identify & support!!



# The Invisible Population on Campus

High Schools across the country report end of year Homeless counts under McKinney Vento Federal Law.

It is time College's start counting.....



In 2012- according to FAFSA- 58,000 homeless on college campuses across the US.


We need to know who we are working with so we can be strategic in our efforts!

# Engaging Homeless youth

- Research shows what keeps homeless in school is CONNECTIONS!
  - Connections to peers, professors, staff
  - Connections to the Community- “Do I belong here” What contribution am I making?
- Help homeless youth solve problems
  - Solve housing during breaks
  - Dealing with significant life events
  - Working multiple jobs- balancing school & living
- Help in teaching coping skills/ Trauma Informed
  - Most homeless youth have experienced at least 1 trauma
  - In ACE survey completed in 2017 @ PHS- it showed 91% hmls youth had 1 trauma while 68% had 4 or more trauma’s


# The Power of Connection....

Why is this so important.....(the Starfish Story)

Social Worker at Charter reached out for SPOC at IU- her hmls student struggling on campus/ lonely, BIG campus, no friends, introvert that is thinking about dropping out 

I gave her IU SPOC contact but also reached out to 2 of my students on campus that are flourishing.....3 connections made for this struggling student

What if.... We were able to save this 1 student?!?

What if....we had a community discussion platform to support one another & help our students 

## Ways to stay connected....

[IDOE McKinney Vento List](#) Provides a list of McKinney Vento Liaisons K-12 for every school district in State of Indiana

[IDOE College SPOC List](#) Provide a list of Colleges in Indiana that have appointed a SPOC (Single Point of Contact)

[NCHE Resources](#) National Center for Homeless Education- Free Resources to stay aware and connected to your work with homeless students

[Indy YHDP](#) Indianapolis Youth Demonstration Program- Purpose to support community & focus on coordinated community approach

# Follow Up Question?

After hearing this presentation.....

What are you going to do if you hear about a student on your campus that is homeless?

# Ways to contact us...

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